



MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



MISSION

- ♦ *To reduce the incidence of domestic violence and create a safe community for families to live free of abuse.*

SEPTEMBER 15, 2014



TABLE OF CONTENTS

DVCC MEMBERSHIP	PAGE 3
TERM OF SERVICE	PAGE 4
SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS	PAGE 4
LEADERSHIP	PAGE 4
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	PAGE 5
COMMITTEE REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS	
VICTIM SERVICES	PAGE 8
EDUCATION AND OUTREACH	PAGE 11
LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY PLANNING	PAGE 16
OFFENDER PROGRAM & POLICY	PAGE 17
SUMMARY	PAGE 19



MEMBERSHIP

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

THE HONORABLE PHIL ANDREWS
COUNCILMEMBER
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

TERESA BENNETT
SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR, CRISIS SERVICES
*FOR **UMA AHLUWALIA**, DIRECTOR*
MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

THE HONORABLE MARIELSA BERNARD
ASSOCIATE JUDGE
*FOR **THE HONORABLE***
JOHN W. DEBELIUS, III
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

SHIRLEY BRANDMAN
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

LAURA CHASE
DEPUTY STATE'S ATTORNEY
*FOR **JOHN J. MCCARTHY***
MONTGOMERY COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY
MONTGOMERY COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

RUSSELL HAMILL
ASSISTANT CHIEF
*FOR **J. THOMAS MANGER**, CHIEF*
MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

DARYL LEACH
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATOR
*FOR **DARREN M. POPKIN**, SHERIFF*
MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

BOBBE MINTZ
COMMISSIONER
*FOR **JUDITH VAUGHAN-PRATHER***
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

THE HONORABLE KARLA SMITH
CHAIR, DVCC
ASSOCIATE JUDGE
*FOR **THE HONORABLE EUGENE WOLFE***
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE
DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND FOR
MONTGOMERY COUNTY

WILLIAM SOLLOD
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

ANGELA TALLEY
CHIEF, PRE-TRIAL SERVICES
*FOR **ARTHUR M. WALLENSTEIN**, DIRECTOR*
MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
AND REHABILITATION

PUBLIC MEMBERS

DONNA BAIRD
COMMUNITY MEMBER

DOROTHY FAIT, ESQ.
COMMUNITY MEMBER

RESA LEVY
COMMUNITY MEMBER

JESSICA LEVY
STUDENT MEMBER

DONNA RISMILLER, ESQ.
COMMUNITY MEMBER

<VACANT, NOMINATION PENDING>
COMMUNITY MEMBER

STAFF

THOMAS MANION
PROGRAM MANAGER
MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF



COUNCIL INFORMATION

TERM OF SERVICE

There are seventeen voting members of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council who serve without compensation and are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council. Five are Ex-Officio members who serve at the request of the County Council: the Administrative Judge of the Circuit Court; the Administrative Judge of the District Court; the Sheriff; the State's Attorney; and the Regional Administrator for the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. There are six Ex-Officio members who are appointed by the County Executive: a member of the County Council, selected by the Council President; the Directors of the Departments of Correction and Rehabilitation; Health and Human Services; Police; Commission for Women; and Montgomery County Public Schools, Board of Education. In addition, there are five members of the general public appointed by the County Executive for renewable three year terms, one of whom is an attorney representing domestic violence victims, and four who have a demonstrated interest in domestic violence issues, including at least one who is a survivor of domestic violence. In 2010 the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council's code pertaining to membership was amended to add a student member. The student member is a high school junior or senior who is appointed to serve a one year term which can be renewed for one additional year.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council meets bi-monthly on the second Thursday of the month, and has met fifty times since September 2006. Meetings are open to the public.

LEADERSHIP

In January 2014, the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council elected Judge Karla Smith, representing the District Court of Maryland for Montgomery County, as Chair, and elected Donna Rismiller, Esq., a Community Member and private attorney in Montgomery County, as Vice Chair.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the eighth year since its creation, the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council has advanced its mission of reducing the incidence of domestic violence and creating a safe community where families are free of abuse. In 2013-2014, the four committees, Victim Services, Education and Outreach, Legislative and Policy Planning and Offender Program and Policy, have each identified focus areas and made progress on executing recommendations from the previous report. This report summarizes the accomplishments of the past year and makes recommendations for the next year.

Special thanks go to the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation for its continued, unwavering support of Domestic Violence Coordinating Council initiatives and the Montgomery County Family Justice Center.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ◆ Completed the expansion of the Montgomery County Family Justice Center (FJC) to additional office space to meet the increased demand for services;
- ◆ Utilized community grants to bring on additional FJC partners, to include Career Catchers, the Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA), the Muslim Community Center, and the Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project;
- ◆ Partnership with Montgomery College and the Montgomery College Foundation to offer scholarship assistance to FJC clients interested in career training or otherwise furthering their education;
- ◆ Gathered valuable information on supervised visitation by visiting existing centers in the state of Maryland and collecting data from Montgomery County Final Protective Orders;
- ◆ Collaborated with numerous Montgomery County agencies and community organizations in a work group established to address supervised visitation services in the county;
- ◆ Collaborated with multiple Montgomery County agencies and community organizations for the 5th Annual Choose Respect Montgomery Healthy Teen Dating Conference, which was held on February 23, 2014;
- ◆ Coordinated the 5th Annual Choose Respect Montgomery Public Service Announcement (PSA) Video Contest;
- ◆ Presented the Choose Respect Montgomery Healthy Teen Dating Curriculum to 1,900 youth participants in Montgomery County Public Schools as well as various youth groups in the community;



ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONTINUED)

- ◆ Participated in the Montgomery County Public Schools Back-to-School Fair on August 23, 2014 to launch the 2015 PSA Contest and to promote the 6th Annual Choose Respect Healthy Teen Dating Conference and the FJC;
- ◆ Expanded the Coaching Boys Into Men (CBIM) program to Montgomery Blair High School;
- ◆ Expanded the FJC Five-Language Information Card initiative, a discreet, multi-lingual outreach program that promotes the FJC and the services it provides to victims of domestic violence and their families;
- ◆ Carefully monitored domestic violence-related legislation that was proposed during the 2014 legislative session in the Maryland General Assembly;
- ◆ Expanded the current GPS monitoring program utilized by the Montgomery County Pre-Trial Supervision Unit (PTSU) to include 24-hour coverage for domestic violence cases through a cooperative pilot program between PTSU and the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD);
- ◆ Promoted increased use of PTSU in domestic violence cases by meeting with District Court Commissioners.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2014-2015

- ◆ Ongoing collaboration among Family Justice Center (FJC) agency partners and the FJC Foundation to continue identifying gaps in domestic violence victim services, and then exploring appropriate, sustainable solutions to fill those gaps;
- ◆ Continued information gathering on existing supervised visitation programs and continued analysis of Final Protective Order data in order to estimate the caseload of a potential center in Montgomery County;
- ◆ Continued collaboration with the supervised visitation work group on drafting and submitting a proposal to the County Executive regarding a Montgomery County Supervised Visitation Center;
- ◆ Continued collaboration with Montgomery County agencies, community organizations, and schools to increase awareness and prevention of teen dating violence through the Choose Respect Montgomery initiative;



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2014-2015 (CONTINUED)

- ♦ Engaging young men in domestic violence prevention through continued expansion of the Coaching Boys Into Men (CBIM) program;
- ♦ Continued promotion of the FJC and its services through expansion of the FJC Five-Language Information Card initiative;
- ♦ Continued coordination with the Montgomery County FJC Foundation and Chesapeake Counseling, LLC to hold a domestic violence training for youth service providers in 2015;
- ♦ Ongoing collaboration with the Office of Intergovernmental Relations and the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence to promote legislation that supports the mission of the DVCC;
- ♦ Evaluation of the new GPS 24-hour monitoring protocol at the end of the 60-day pilot phase;
- ♦ Full institutionalization of the new GPS 24-hour monitoring protocol, pending any necessary adjustments as identified at the completion of the 60-day pilot phase;
- ♦ Continued outreach to District Court Commissioners to promote awareness of Montgomery County Pre-Trial Services and the many benefits of placing domestic violence offenders under pre-trial supervision;
- ♦ Continued development and execution of the Montgomery County Domestic Violence Facilitated Forum to promote increased communication between county agencies and organizations that are part of the coordinated community response to domestic violence.



VICTIM SERVICES COMMITTEE

CHAIR: DARYL LEACH

The Victim Services Committee has been collaborating actively with Montgomery County Family Justice Center (FJC) agency partners, the Montgomery County FJC Foundation and community volunteers for ongoing sustainability and effective operation of the FJC. The Committee focused on establishing and funding FJC programs that not only promote safety for victims of domestic violence, but also assist these victims in locating a path to self-sufficiency. Of specific interest this year was exploring the possibility of establishing a Montgomery County Supervised Visitation Center. Primary objectives successfully achieved in the previous year are outlined below, as well as recommendations for the coming year.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

Since opening its doors in April 2009, approximately five thousand victims representing over one hundred different countries of origin have sought services at the Montgomery County FJC with the goal of ending domestic violence in their lives. FJCs are recognized nationally by the law enforcement, medical and mental health communities as a “best-practice” for responding to victims of domestic violence. Domestic violence victims who come to the FJC are able to receive a broad array of critical Montgomery County services. These services include advocacy in the form of individualized, comprehensive safety plans; assistance with navigating the court system and the filing of protective orders including video links to the courts for ex-parte orders ; representation at protective order hearings; specific programs available to immigrant victims under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA); law enforcement intervention in criminal prosecution of offenders; counseling for victims and their children in both individual and group settings; on-site child care services to support victims through while the client is accessing FJC services; and help with obtaining basic needs, such as shelter, food, housing, and transportation often all lost to victims and their families forced to flee their homes.

EXPANSIONS IN CLIENT SERVICES

The Montgomery County FJC opened over five years ago with three primary on-site County agencies, to include the State’s Attorney’s Office, the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and the Sheriff’s Office. Since then, the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD), Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services and House of Ruth Maryland were added to provide specialized services to FJC clients. The Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation and the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services were also invited to collaborate with the State’s Attorney’s Office regarding offender cases and accountability. Additionally, in an effort to provide clients a path from safety to self-sufficiency, the DVCC Victim Services Committee and the Montgomery County FJC Foundation reached out to Montgomery College and the Montgomery College Foundation, who agreed to assist with the scholarship process for FJC clients interested in career training or furthering their education. This year, the



Sheriff's Office was able to use community grants to bring additional partners to the FJC, including Career Catchers, the Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA), the Muslim Community Center, the Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project.

The FJC also expanded to additional office space this year to meet the increased demands for services. The additional space accommodates the staff of partner agencies at the FJC, including expanded counseling services through the House of Ruth Maryland and an increased presence from the Montgomery County Police Department, Special Victims Investigations Division (SVID).

RECOMMENDATION: The Victim Services Committee recommends ongoing collaboration among FJC agency partners and the FJC Foundation to continue identifying gaps in domestic violence victim services, and then exploring appropriate, sustainable solutions to fill those gaps.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SUPERVISED VISITATION CENTER

GATHER RELEVANT INFORMATION ON SUPERVISED VISITATION BY VISITING EXISTING PROGRAMS IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND AND COLLECTING FINAL PROTECTIVE ORDER DATA

The Victim Services Committee has focused extensively on exploring ways to bring a Supervised Visitation Center to Montgomery County for cases in which there is an intimate partner domestic violence-related Final Protective Order. The first step in this process is information gathering about how existing supervised visitation programs were established, how they are run, and what difficulties they have faced since they were created. This year, the Committee visited the Lower Shore Family Center (Salisbury, MD), the Carroll County Visitation Center, the Dorchester County Visitation Center, the Frederick County Mental Health Association's Supervised Visitation Program, the Armand Center for Conflict Resolution (Bethesda, MD), and the Baltimore County Circuit Court Visitation Program. The Committee was able to gain valuable knowledge from these centers regarding funding possibilities, facility requirements, security protocols, potential pitfalls to avoid, and other important information that will greatly assist the development of a Supervised Visitation Center in Montgomery County.

The Victim Services Committee is also working on calculating the caseload of a potential Supervised Visitation Center by collecting data from Final Protective Orders. The Committee is currently analyzing all Final Protective Orders from July 1, 2014 – September 30, 2014, and noting the number that are intimate partner domestic violence-related, how many involve children, how many order unsupervised visitation, and how many order supervised visitation. Once data collection is complete, the data will be used to estimate the approximate for a Supervised Visitation Center. It should be noted that, since no Supervised Visitation Center currently exists in Montgomery County for intimate partner domestic violence cases, the calculated estimate will likely increase substantially if such a center were established.

RECOMMENDATION: The Victim Services Committee recommends continued information gathering on existing supervised visitation programs and continued analysis of Final Protective Order data in order to estimate the caseload of a potential center in Montgomery County.



DEVELOP A PROPOSAL FOR A SUPERVISED VISITATION CENTER IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

In June, 2014, County Executive Isiah Leggett established a work group to address the issue of supervised visitation in Montgomery County. This collaborative group includes members representing the Montgomery County Circuit Court, the District Court of Maryland for Montgomery County, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, and other county agencies. The Victim Services Committee, as part of this work group, has participated in numerous discussions regarding the feasibility of establishing a Supervised Visitation Center in Montgomery County, and what such a center would look like. Currently, the work group is drafting a proposal to submit to the County Executive regarding a Montgomery County Supervised Visitation Center. The work group hopes to submit a final version of the proposal to the County Executive by late 2014 or early 2015.

RECOMMENDATION: The Victim Services Committee recommends continued collaboration with the supervised visitation work group on drafting and submitting a proposal to the County Executive regarding a Montgomery County Supervised Visitation Center.



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

CHAIR: DONNA RISMILLER, ESQ.

The Education and Outreach Committee continued to focus on its teen dating violence prevention initiative during the past year. This initiative, titled Choose Respect Montgomery, includes three primary activities: the annual conference for teens, their parents, and youth service providers; the public service announcement video contest; and the healthy teen dating curriculum which is presented in the County's middle and high schools. This year, the Committee also expanded two existing initiatives: the multi-lingual public outreach program to promote awareness of the services available at the Montgomery County Family Justice Center, and the Coaching Boys Into Men program, which utilizes the unique role of coaches in the lives of young male athletes to teach them to be respectful both on and off the field. Finally, the Committee is in the early stages of planning a domestic violence training geared toward youth service providers. Highlights from each of these activities, as well as recommendations for future improvement, are listed below.

CHOOSE RESPECT MONTGOMERY: **TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION INITIATIVE**

HEALTHY TEEN DATING CONFERENCE

The 5th Annual Choose Respect Montgomery Healthy Teen Dating Conference was held on Sunday, February 23, 2014 at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus of Montgomery College. Funded by Verizon Wireless through its partnership with the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation, and sponsored by the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC), Montgomery College and numerous other Montgomery County agencies and organizations, the purpose of this annual conference is to promote respect in dating relationships and to raise community awareness about the prevalence of teen dating violence. This year's theme was "Piecing Together Healthy Relationships," and focused on identifying the components of healthy and unhealthy relationships, and more importantly, identifying the differences between the two.

More than 300 teens, parents, educators, youth service providers, volunteers and public officials attended the half day conference. The event opened with an energetic welcome from the emcees, Hot 99.5 DJ Toby Knapp and NBC4 News Reporter Jackie Bensen, followed by two video presentations: one being a testimonial from a teen survivor of dating abuse, and the other being a presentation from the Springbrook High School varsity football team, showing that being masculine is not the same as being violent. Eclipse Performing Dance Company then took the stage to perform three contemporary dance routines from their original production "STORM," which tells the story of an abusive relationship. The first large-group session ended with the premiere of the top five entries in the Public Service Announcement Video Contest. Participants were then grouped by age/grade level for educational workshops that were offered in both English and Spanish. This year's workshop program was



developed by the Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA), and functioned as a “choose your own path” activity. In groups of 3-4, participants were assigned one of many characters who were in a situation involving dating abuse, making various decisions that influenced the narrative and following the story through to one of several endings. These stories were then used as a jumping-off point for a discussion about these issues. Following the workshops, attendees reconvened as a large group, at which time Montgomery County State’s Attorney John J. McCarthy,

Sheriff Darren M. Popkin, and Councilmember Phil Andrews, presented a proclamation recognizing February as Teen Dating Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month in the County. The winners of the Public Service Announcement Video Contest were then announced, and the conference was brought to a close with the distribution of raffle prizes and free pizza for all attendees.

The conference evaluations were very positive, with more than 95% of the attendees reporting that the event either met or exceeded their expectations. Teens, parents, educators and youth service providers all seemed to grasp the importance of identifying the “pieces” that make up healthy relationships, and learned not only what resources are available to victims of dating abuse, but also how to talk about these issues in a healthy and safe way. The conference evaluations were assessed by conference planners and will be taken into consideration when planning future events.

The DVCC is very appreciative of the event sponsorship from Verizon Wireless through its partnership with the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation. Special thanks also go to Montgomery College, JCADA, and the numerous other county and community partners that made the 5th Annual Choose Respect Conference a huge success. Plans for the 6th annual conference scheduled for March, 2015 are already underway.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT VIDEO CONTEST

For the fifth consecutive year, the DVCC coordinated the Public Service Announcement Video Contest for local teens in middle and high school. This contest is intended to evoke teens’ awareness and perspective on the issue of teen dating violence, while also allowing them to be creative. Participants were challenged to submit a 60-second video promoting attention to dating abuse. They were also asked to include resource information such as the phone number to a local or national helpline. A total of 55 videos were submitted this year, which is a record number of submissions. The Top 3 videos received cash prizes, and two “Honorable Mention” videos received gift cards to a local restaurant. This year’s contest was sponsored by Verizon Wireless through its partnership with the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation. Finalists were announced in February, 2014 via the Choose Respect Montgomery Facebook page, and the winners were announced at the 5th Annual Choose Respect Healthy Teen Dating Conference. The top 5 projects can be viewed by clicking on the following links:

1st Place: 'Control' (Watkins Mill High School): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uI0XzpxroF8>

2nd Place: 'Draw My Life: A Story of Abuse' (Sherwood High School):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWmqgQmNVg>

3rd Place: 'Hall Pass' (Bethesda Chevy Chase High School): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1li3VtrqFE>

Honorable Mention: 'Too Common' (Sherwood High School): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9h3Ar5XhAhc>

Honorable Mention: 'Tell Someone' (Northwest High School): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eibc-IaZAQQ>



The DVCC and its partners believe this contest provides a worthwhile opportunity for teens, and launched the 2015 contest at the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Back-to-School Fair on August 23rd, 2014. Entries will be accepted in English and Spanish, and cash prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. The sponsoring school, youth group, teacher or adult leader will also receive recognition.

HEALTHY TEEN DATING CURRICULUM

The Choose Respect Montgomery Healthy Teen Dating Curriculum is available in both English and Spanish. It is an instructional presentation based on nationally recognized dating abuse prevention curricula to include: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Choose Respect, Liz Claiborne, Love is Not Abuse and Break the Cycle. The 45 minute Prezi presentation provides multiple opportunities for student involvement, and features brief videos on various dating abuse topics such as verbal abuse, abuse through technology and how to intervene as a responsible witness. The conversations with teens during the presentation specifically focus on:

- 1) Components of healthy dating behaviors such as trust and safe, non-threatening communication;
- 2) Identification of early warning signs of abusive dating behavior to include control, isolation, criticism and manipulation;
- 3) Identification of the roles in abusive dating relationships; and
- 4) Addressing dating violence when it is witnessed in school or among social circles.

Local resources and national teen dating abuse help lines and websites are also discussed. Every participant is given a Choose Respect Montgomery bookmark which contains the contact information for the Montgomery County Family Justice Center and the National Dating Abuse Helpline. Active participants during the presentation also receive a silicone Choose Respect Montgomery wristband containing the phrase, “Respect: Give it! Get it! Get involved!”

The Choose Respect Montgomery Healthy Teen Dating Curriculum is offered at no cost and was approved for middle and high school students by the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Administration and the MCPS Citizen Advisory Board on Family Life and Human Development. Presentation requests are received at the Sheriff’s Office from various school personnel, such as health teachers, counselors and school principals. The school principal ultimately approves the presentation for the particular student audience. Family Violence Division Prosecutors and Community Prosecutors from the Montgomery County State’s Attorney’s Office conduct the presentations.

In its fourth year since implementation, the Choose Respect Montgomery Healthy Teen Dating Curriculum was presented to 1,900 youth participants from MCPS and community groups by five dedicated presenters.

RECOMMENDATION: The Choose Respect Montgomery initiative has been a successful prevention and outreach project over the past four years. It is the recommendation of the Education and Outreach Committee to continue collaboration with county agencies, community organizations, and schools to increase awareness and prevention of teen dating violence through the Choose Respect Montgomery initiative.



ENGAGING YOUNG MEN IN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

COACHING BOYS INTO MEN

Historically, intimate partner violence prevention has been viewed solely as a women's issue. Anti-violence organizations and programs were established as safe spaces where women exposed to intimate partner and sexual violence could find support and healing. In recent years, however, attention has been drawn to the importance of engaging men and boys in violence prevention as well. Many promising programs that involve young men are being introduced across the United States, including Futures Without Violence's program Coaching Boys Into Men (CBIM). CBIM is a free toolkit that utilizes the unique and important role that coaches play in the lives of young men. These comprehensive tools assist coaches in planning important discussions with athletes about respect for women and girls, and that violence doesn't equal strength. Through CBIM, male athletes learn skills to avoid violence and abuse in their relationships.

Springbrook High School hosted the first CBIM pilot program in Montgomery County, led by varsity football coach Adam Bahr. The program began in the 2013-2014 school year and was a huge success. In February, the football team recorded a video that was shown at the 5th Annual Choose Respect Conference about being masculine while still being respectful both on and off the field. The team also attended the conference. Thanks to funding secured through the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation, Coach Adam Bahr was able to provide plaques and small cash awards to three departing seniors who truly embodied the spirit of the CBIM program. The Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation also partnered with the Montgomery College Foundation to provide scholarship assistance to departing seniors in the CBIM program who were interested in attending Montgomery College in the Fall and joining Boys to Men, a mentoring program at Montgomery College similar to CBIM. Due to the success of the pilot program, Springbrook High School will fully implement CBIM as part of the standard football season moving forward. The CBIM program will also be expanded to Montgomery Blair High School for the 2014-2015 school year, and will be led by Patrick Dudley, the football team's tight end coach.

RECOMMENDATION: The Education and Outreach Committee recommends engaging young men in domestic violence prevention through continued expansion of the CBIM program.

PROMOTING AWARENESS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM SERVICES

FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER FIVE-LANGUAGE INFORMATION CARDS

Victims of domestic violence often do not know what services are available to them, or where to go to seek help. In an effort to promote awareness of these resources, the Education and Outreach Committee developed Family Justice Center (FJC) information cards. These cards contain the location of the FJC, contact information, a list of available services, and other important information. The content is presented in five different languages – English, Spanish, French, Chinese and Korean – and is pre-folded to fit discreetly in a pocket or purse. Clear, wall-affixed receptacles were procured



for the distribution of these cards. Each receptacle also has a sticker on it containing a QR code which, when scanned with a cell phone, leads directly to a PDF version of the card.

At the beginning of the year, receptacles and cards were already on display in all Montgomery County Regional Services Centers and public libraries. This year, cards were placed in both District Court locations in Montgomery County – Rockville and Silver Spring – in the courtrooms where protective order cases are normally heard. Cards and receptacles were also placed in all of the women’s restrooms in the Judicial Center/Circuit Court building. Replenishment protocols are in place for all locations in which the cards are on display.

RECOMMENDATION: The Education and Outreach Committee recommends continued promotion of the Family Justice Center and its services through expansion of the FJC Five-Language Information Card initiative.

EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, ITS IMPACT ON FAMILIES, AND RESOURCES FOR VICTIMS

YOUTH SERVICE PROVIDER TRAINING

As children and adolescents grow and mature in their communities, they can face innumerable challenges, including issues related domestic violence in their families or in their own dating relationships. Individuals who work with children and teens on a daily basis can encounter a wide variety of these topics every single day, and it is essential that they are equipped with the knowledge to help each youth deal with each challenge appropriately. To address this, the Education and Outreach Committee discussed the possibility of coordinating a training on domestic violence and dating abuse for youth service providers in Maryland. The Committee is working with the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation, Chesapeake Counseling, LLC, and the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence to bring this training to fruition. The plan is to hold the training in Montgomery County in the Spring of 2015.

RECOMMENDATION: The Education and Outreach Committee recommends continued coordination with all current partners to make the domestic violence training for youth service providers a reality in 2015.



LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY PLANNING COMMITTEE

CHAIR: DOROTHY FAIT, ESQ.

The Legislative and Policy Planning Committee focused this year on supporting certain domestic violence-related legislation in the state of Maryland. Below is a summary of supported legislation as well as the committee's recommendation for the coming year.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEGISLATION UPDATES

Numerous domestic violence-related bills were passed during this year's legislative session, all of which will take effect on October 1, 2014. Pieces of legislation that were of particular interest to the DVCC Legislative and Policy Planning Committee include:

Senate Bill 333

This bill changes the burden of proof from "clear and convincing evidence" to "a preponderance of evidence" for final protective and peace orders.

Senate Bill 334

This legislation makes it easier for domestic violence victims to obtain permanent protective orders. Currently, a petitioner is eligible for a permanent protective order if the respondent has also been convicted of certain enumerated crimes related to the act of abuse that led to the issuance of a final protective order and has served a sentence of at least five years. This legislation adds the crime of second degree assault to the list of enumerated crimes and alters the language of the law so that the respondent must serve at least 12 months of a sentence rather than five years.

Senate Bill 434

This legislation clarifies that during the term of a peace or protective order, when the petitioner files for an extension, the peace or protective order will remain in effect until the court has held a hearing on the extension of the peace or protective order.

Senate Bill 337

This legislation enhances the penalties for individuals who commit a domestically-related violent crime in the presence of a minor.

House Bill 397

This bill allows a petitioner or a respondent in a peace or protective order case to file a written request to shield court records relating to the peace or protective order if the respondent consented to the entry of the peace or protective order under certain circumstances. The bill was passed after being heavily amended to provide more protections for domestic violence victims.

RECOMMENDATION: The Legislative and Policy Planning Committee recommends ongoing collaboration with the Office of Intergovernmental Relations and the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence to promote legislation that supports the mission of the DVCC.

RECOMMENDATION: The Legislative and Policy Planning Committee recommends exploring ways for the DVCC to either testify in front of the General Assembly on bills of interest to the DVCC mission, or to respond to certain bills of interest in a more timely manner.



OFFENDER PROGRAM AND POLICY COMMITTEE

CHAIR: ANGELA TALLEY

The Offender Program and Policy Committee includes members from Montgomery County and Maryland State agencies that focus on domestic violence offender intervention. Committee members remain focused on evaluating offender programs within their individual departments and identifying collaborative opportunities to improve communication and offender services as a whole. The details of the committee's departmental and system review as well as recommendations for improvement are outlined below.

IMPROVING THE CURRENT GPS MONITORING PROGRAM UTILIZED BY THE PRE-TRIAL SUPERVISION UNIT

EXPAND GPS MONITORING TO 24-HOUR COVERAGE

The Offender Program and Policy Committee was asked by Judge Karla Smith, DVCC Chair, to examine the current GPS monitoring program utilized by the Montgomery County Pre-Trial Supervision Unit (PTSU) for potential improvements. The Committee identified that the current system could be improved by expanding to 24-hour coverage. At present, exclusion zone violations and other GPS alerts are only received and vetted by PTSU staff during business hours due to personnel and budget limitations.

The Committee developed a pilot program in which exclusion zone violations that occur during non-business hours will be forwarded to on-call investigators in the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD), Domestic Violence Unit (DVU). Violations will be vetted by the on-call DVU Investigator, who will advise the Emergency Communication Center (ECC). ECC will then dispatch the appropriate patrol officers to the location. Upon arrival, the responding patrol officers have to confirm that the suspect is at the location and is in violation of a protective/peace order by contacting the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office (MCSO). The responding patrol officer would then arrest the suspect if all information is confirmed. In the event the suspect is no longer on scene, the responding patrol officer will note the suspect's absence, and check the welfare of the victim. It should be noted that MCPD can arrest offenders for violation of a protective/peace order only, and not for violation of bond conditions. The Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office (SAO), PTSU, and MCPD will work together to follow up promptly on all violations. The pilot program went into effect on August 18, 2014 and will continue for 60 days. To facilitate this pilot program, PTSU held a training for MCPD staff in August on how to receive, identify and vet alerts that they receive from B.I., Inc., the current vendor providing GPS services to PTSU.

RECOMMENDATION: The Offender Program and Policy Committee recommends that the new GPS 24-hour monitoring protocol be evaluated at the end of the 60-day pilot phase, and pending any necessary adjustments, be fully institutionalized.



PROMOTING INCREASED USE OF PRE-TRIAL SERVICES IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES

REACH OUT TO COURT COMMISSIONERS TO DISCUSS PRE-TRIAL SERVICES AND THEIR UTILITY IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES

This year, members of the Offender Program and Policy Committee met with District Court Commissioners to discuss the utility of pre-trial services for offenders, especially in cases involving domestic violence. The Committee found that many of the Commissioners were unaware of the many benefits of placing offenders under pre-trial supervision, and were very interested in learning more. As a result, Montgomery County Pre-Trial Services saw a significant increase in referrals in the subsequent months.

RECOMMENDATION: The Offender Program and Policy Committee recommends continuing to meet with District Court Commissioners on an annual basis to promote awareness of Montgomery County Pre-Trial Services and the many benefits of placing domestic violence offenders under pre-trial supervision.

PROMOTING INCREASED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN COUNTY AGENCIES AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ISSUES

DEVELOP AND COORDINATE A MONTGOMERY COUNTY FACILITATED FORUM ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Offender Program and Policy Committee identified the need for increased understanding and communication between the numerous Montgomery County agencies and organizations that are part of the coordinated community response to domestic violence. To facilitate this, the Committee is coordinating a Montgomery County domestic violence forum discussion, which will take place in 2015. The forum is still in the early planning stages, but the overall mission is to promote accountability and responsibility in domestic violence cases through increased partnership between the criminal justice and treatment systems in the county. The objectives will be to (1) promote increased understanding between the various groups that routinely work on cases that involve domestic violence; (2) promote increased awareness of the services and treatments available for individuals involved in domestic violence situations; (3) identify areas in which the county agencies and organizations can work together to address procedural difficulties and streamline services to families dealing with domestic violence; and (4) ensure that domestic violence cases are seamlessly tracked from inception to completion to ensure defendant compliance.

RECOMMENDATION: The Offender Program and Policy Committee recommends continued development and execution of the Montgomery County Domestic Violence Facilitated Forum to promote increased communication between county agencies and organizations that are part of the coordinated community response to domestic violence.



SUMMARY

Through the services provided by the FJC, the monitoring of domestic violence policy, and the implementation of numerous domestic violence prevention initiatives, the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) continues to play an active and critical role in creating a safe community for families to live free of abuse. These activities and programs would not be possible without the support of DVCC agency partners, community groups and the Montgomery County FJC Foundation. In the coming year, the DVCC will continue to promote and expand existing initiatives and services as well as explore new, innovative strategies to reduce the incidence of domestic violence in Montgomery County.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2014